

CLERK: 25 ayes, 2 nays to raise the Call, Mr. President.

SENATOR SAVAGE: The Call is raised. Announce the vote.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the first Labedz amendment, Mr. President.

SENATOR SAVAGE: The Labedz amendment is adopted. Are there other amendments, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Yes, Mr. President. I understand, Senator Labedz, that we have amendments offered by you on page 603 and you wish to withdraw those. Is that....? All right. I then have amendments, Mr. President, offered by Senator Labedz which can be found on Journal page 732.

SENATOR SAVAGE: Chair recognizes Senator Labedz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is amendment two to LB 407. This amendment would increase the income levels allowed for a qualified claimant and to provide a sliding scale as shown on the information included in the material that I gave you yesterday. The correspondence that I have been receiving, and people that I have been talking to, meetings and so forth that I have been going to and the Commission on Aging have been telling me that on the present homestead exemption law, as it stands today, and we're going to deal with the two people over 65, which is \$4800. Those earning under \$4800 receive a 100 percent exemption. If they earn \$4801 they lose the entire exemption because they did go over a dollar, ten dollars or 100 dollars, no matter what it is. In talking to these groups they suggested that we put in a sliding scale whereby if you do earn a very small amount and it goes from \$4800, or in LB 407 it would be \$6200 to \$7700, the \$1500 extra would allow those that earn a \$500, or \$100, or \$1 over \$6200, they would be allowed a portion or a part exemption on their property. A sliding scale of income guidelines would mean that the elderly persons with income above the federal guideline would begin to receive a benefit based on these incomes. The higher the income the less the exemption would be. This would respond to the argument that elderly people, earning just a few dollars over the guidelines, receive nothing, while those earning 100 percent under the guidelines...or \$1 under the guideline receive a full tax relief. I know I will be asked. The sliding scale in raising the income level would cost \$1,388,000. This is where the total comes in-- \$3,201,000. This is my last amendment. I will repeat again, it raises the income level to the present federal guidelines, which is \$6200 for two people, married, both over 65; \$5,450, married, one over 65; and \$3700 for a single person, plus the sliding scale and that doesn't go very high. For a single person it goes from \$3700 to \$5200. As we all realize today \$5200 a year is not very much money. Married, one over 65 goes from \$5450 to \$6950. Married, both over 65, \$6200 to \$7700. This second amendment would complete LB 407, as amended and the way I wanted it in the first place, with the exception of taking out the retirement income. I urge the members of the Legislature to approve this amendment so we can go on and move LB 407.

SENATOR SAVAGE: Chair recognizes Senator Duis.